

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Specification

As required, an Abstract on a separate sheet is enclosed. In addition, appropriate heading have been added to the specification, and the language of the claims has been imported into the specification as suggested by the Examiner.

Withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC§ 103

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2. Claim 2 was rejected as being unpatentable over US 3,135,643 (Michl), US 2,958,593 (Hoover et al.), and US 5,344,704 (O'Dell et al.). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

As noted by the Examiner, Michl neither discloses or suggests step (c) of claim 1, i.e., additionally spraying onto the damped wet paper an additional layer of amino resin in a dispersion containing an abrasive substance and a flow-promoting agent. To overcome this deficiency, the Examiner looks to Hoover et al. for a teaching of spraying a resin-abrasive slurry in order to obtain a uniform coverage of a surface. Hoover et al., however, has nothing to do with the production of wear-resistant laminate flooring material. Hoover instead relates to tools for floor maintenance. Consequently, the skilled person would not have looked to Hoover et al. for improvements relating to the production of wear-resistant laminate flooring material. There is lacking any reason to believe that the skilled person would expect the methodology taught by Hoover et al., that is directed to the formation of floor scouring structures, to be transportable to the production of a laminate flooring material taught by Michl. The only reason the Examiner found Hoover et al. in the first place is because of applicant's teachings, not because of some suggestion or motivation in the pertinent art.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the fact that Michl and Hoover have been known for more than 40 years, and yet no one has sought to combine these references in the manner suggested by the Examiner. This is strong objective evidence the rejection advance by the Examiner is based on hindsight.

The addition of O'Dell et al. does not overcome the fundamental deficiency of the base combination, and thus O'Dell et al. does not render the method of claim 1 obvious, nor does it suggest the additional limitations imported into claim 1 from claim 2.

For at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, the rejection of the other claims should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP


By _____

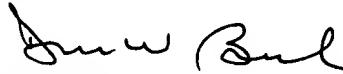
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or thing referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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